

## Trafficking -A terror



\* Monika Garg

\* Assit. Prof. ,BSAIL, Faridabad.



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*"Heal The World  
Make It A Better Place  
For You And For Me  
And The Entire Human Race,  
There Are People Dying  
If You Care Enough  
For The Living  
Make A Better Place  
For You And For Me"*

---MICHAEL JACKSON

### Introduction

Trafficking is the worst form of crime against women and violative of their human rights which has essentially been unregulated in spite of the gravity of issues involved. Trafficking is a form of abusive and irregular migration for commercial sexual exploitation and other illegal purposes, has reached alarming proportions in the past two decades globally; and more so within the South-Asian Region.

Across this Region, human beings, especially women and children are trafficked within their own countries and across international borders against their will in what is essentially a clandestine slave trade.

The number of trafficked persons is difficult to determine as the corruption, violence and the Mafioso surrounding the practice render an estimate of its magnitude virtually impossible. Trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation and other abusive purposes is rampant in India and its toll on human suffering is evident in urban and rural pockets throughout the country. The incidence of Intra country trafficking is also very high.

According to ILO, IOM and UNIFEM and other such organizations [based on commissioned studies], the known purposes of trafficking are prostitution, entertainment industry, domestic work, work in carpet, garment, fishing and brick industries, forced

labour, camel jockeys, illegal adoption of children, organ transplantation, forced marriage, mail order brides, drug trafficking, begging, circus and other exploitative form of work. But to understand trafficking better we have to understand the main features and internal dynamics of these sectors, especially to the use of trafficked victims - knowingly or unknowingly.

The root causes include extreme disparities of wealth, continuing and pervasive inequality due to class, caste and most importantly gender biases throughout the region, erosion of traditional family systems and values, iniquitous social conventions, lack of transparency in regulations governing labour migration (both domestic and cross border), poor enforcement of internationally agreed-upon human rights standards, and enormous profits ensured by the trafficking business to the traffickers.

The commonplace understanding of trafficking as akin to 'prostitution' was one of the major reasons why the human rights violations inherent in trafficking were never understood.

This called for demystification of the term. The complexity of the phenomenon, its multidimensional nature, its rapid spread and the confusion surrounding the concept made the need for a deeper comprehension of trafficking a top priority.

The reasons for its persistence and rapid proliferation were not very clear. Thus, there is an urgent need for a greater understanding of the various aspects of the phenomenon. There is a strong indication from the available information that women and children are becoming vulnerable to trafficking as they were unable to survive with dignity because of lack of livelihood options. In the absence of awareness of human rights, the economically and socially deprived people at the grassroots have become easy prey to the trafficking trade. It was found that there was a wide gap between

1. Trafficking in human beings would mean: "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse, of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving and the receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over an other person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs" - DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING; according to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Trans-National Organised Crime.

the official data obtained from government sources and the data given out by NGOs during seminars and conferences. Thus, the creation of an authentic and reliable database at an all India level could no longer be delayed. Eastern India including the northeastern states are becoming a hotspot for women traffickers like never before, warns.

The study conducted by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) suggests that trafficking of women and children from the northeastern states has assumed a serious dimension. In the northeast, areas near Pangsau Pass in Arunachal Pradesh, Dimapur in Nagaland and Moreh in Manipur are the major transit and demand centers. "Women and children from Assam and Bangladesh are trafficked to Moreh in Manipur and sent to Myanmar [Burma] and other Southeast Asian countries through the Golden Triangle," the report said. Women and children from Jorhat in Assam, Mokokchung and Tuensang in Nagaland and

Bangladesh are sent through Pangsau Pass to Myanmar and then to Bangkok, it added. The report attributed "insurgency, ethnic clashes and community conflicts" to be the main reason behind the vulnerability of women and children in northeast.

Apart from the northeastern region, the traffickers also target tribal girls from Orissa, Jharkhand and from the minority communities in Bihar and West Bengal. Many women become involved in trafficking due to poverty others were trafficked themselves as young girls but were set free a few years later after they promised to lure even younger women into sexual exploitation.

Conclusion No doubt Article 14, 19, 21 & 23 of constitution of India prohibits Trafficking in its full sense. Even the prevention of immoral trafficking Act 1956 was passed with the object to curb the menace and the proposed amendment bill 2006 is still pending waiting for the justice being done.

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